

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 308 without my signature.

Elder financial abuse is an unacceptable crime that should be vigorously prosecuted. I appreciate the author's continued interest in finding solutions to protect senior and dependent adults from this crime. It is important that protection services are geared toward improving the lives of our seniors and that is why I have directed our agencies to develop a plan to coordinate state and local efforts. As I mentioned in my veto of similar legislation, I believe that it is important that any legislation in this area take into account the recommendations of the forthcoming Office of Emergency Services report on elder financial abuse. As such, I believe that this legislation is premature.

Of additional concern is the fee that this bill would authorize to be imposed on specified real-estate instruments. Though designated to help prevent elder financial abuse, the fee is actually a special tax and, therefore, should be subject to a vote of the people.

For these reasons I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger